

TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2009



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wishes you
a Happy
Holidays!*



TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE

In This Issue:



Talon Staff Speaks Out: What do they wish for?

I- Journalism



Cory Stuefer

I wish that I could be closer to the people I love and spend more time with them.

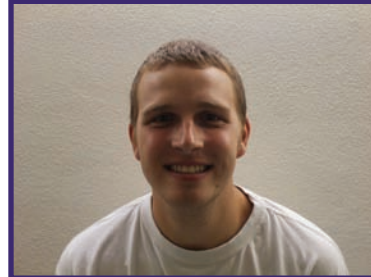


Mary Beth Brandt

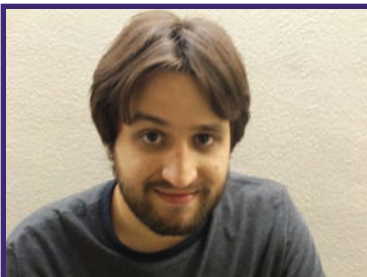
I wish I could be done with school.



I wish finals were over and done with.

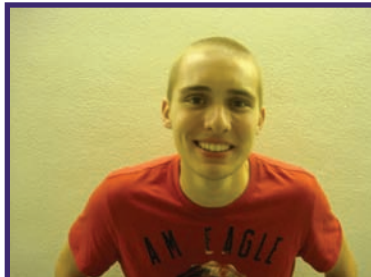


Austin Stockard - I wish that this holiday season every family can be together. Most importantly to me I want both of my brothers to come home.

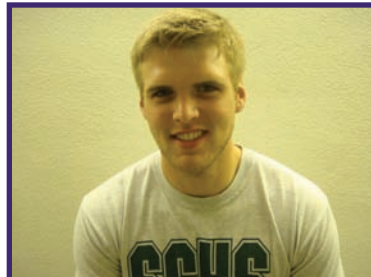


Ben Auxier

I wish I had a better understanding of how the people around me think.



Jason Haase - I WISH the rest of the semester goes well for everyone here at avila including myself, as well as a great Christmas for all.



Shawn Sullivan

I wish that the football coach situation would get resolved so that we can get to work.



Liz Nelson

I wish... that I had the ability to stop time.



Emily Heid

I wish... I had more time that my braces were off + my hair was longer. I wish I knew my future + people always told the truth. I also wish there was a statue in my honor!

Layout



Nicole Drew

I wish everyday at 11:11 for the same thing.



I WISH... for all to find LOVE. Remember, love is foolish. David Fuller

Faculty Advisor



"I wish that all our wishes for peace, sustenance, and understanding be rewarded and satisfied by our collective wisdom and individual fortitude"

J. Anthony Snorgrass

EDITORIAL POLICY

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We're always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad. Ben Kopp and Charlotte Bishop. kopp154945@avila.edu bishop185740@avila.edu

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Avila University Men's Basketball Update

By Peter Kondracki

After the first 6 games the Avila University Men's Basketball team has gotten off to a pretty decent start. The Eagles started off with 3 good wins over William Woods University (86-69), Park University (75-63), and Grace College (77-64). The Eagles, however, couldn't maintain their winning ways as they have dropped 2 of the last 3 games to Rogers State (114-81) and St. Gregory University (71-60). The Eagles did get a big win against Ottawa University (80-66) at home on Tuesday.

While this may not have been the exact start Head Coach Anthony Hall would have wanted, the Eagles still have 4 wins and have shown some promise and potential for being such a young team. Junior Adam Short leads the team in Points Per Game with and almost 18 point average. Freshman Kelby Phelps and Tommy Cochran are playing great basketball right now as Phelps leads the team in Assits (19) along with Cochran leading the team in Steals (12). Sophomore Kevin Booker leads the team in Rebounds (57) and Blocked Shots (7). Booker and Phelps also rank in the top 25 in the division in their respective categories.

The Eagles next game is at Columbia College Friday, November 27th, while their next home game is December 5th at 4 p.m. when Central Methodist comes to town. Go out and support your Eagles!!



The crowds go wild at a home basketball game.

A Current picture of the men's Avila Basketball Team.



Band of Brothers: Avila Basketball more than just a team

By Austin Stockard

For about nine months out of the year a family consisting of different races and religions comes together. A family from various cities and states. A family whose stories and pasts are completely opposite to one another's. A family that is united by one goal and one love. The goal is an NAIA D1 National Championship and the love is basketball. Thirteen brothers who go to war almost every day with one another.

Up until the beginning of the season the Avila men's basketball team practiced six days a week with Tuesday and Thursday being two a day practices that started at 6:00 a.m. Also on those Tuesday and Wednesdays the basketball team would report to weights at 4 p.m. Team chemistry is a huge issue of debate. Does it really make a difference in how a team performs on its battlefield? No one truly knows the answer but when it comes to team chemistry there is no other team on the Avila campus as close as the men's basketball team.

Lamar Williams a third year transfer from Joliet Community College says "I can't really call anybody on the team a teammate because we are all more like brothers. I wouldn't work as hard as I do for someone I didn't care about. I love my teammates they know if they need anything they can come to me and I know I can go to them." The only time they are separated is when they are sleeping or in different classes and even then the text messages are coming in and out to one another. If one person goes and eats you better believe that twelve teammates are right behind him. On weekends the team is never found separated if there is a party there is either zero basketball players or there is thirteen. Most of the time you can find the basketball team in room 102 watching a movie or playing Xbox 360. The room is loud, filled with trash talking, laughter, or the occasional argument. If you think

about it these players are like brothers.

"I live next door to a couple of basketball players. It is crazy how close this team is. There is at least seven basketball players in room 102 at all times. They always have a good time together," says Nick Parsells a freshmen soccer player and photographer for various sports teams. Even when the basketball team is blessed with a couple days off from practice they still can't get enough of each other and sometimes go over to a fellow teammate's house. "I love when we (Austin Stockard and Jason Haase) go over to (Zach Smith's) house. It's like a different world I'm from Houston and this kid (Smith) has chickens running everywhere and then he has two pigs that his family makes me round up. When I go over there they don't treat me like a friend of Zach's they treat me like I am their kid," said Jason Haase a second year player for the Avila men's basketball team.

The Avila men's basketball team loves where they are at and who they are with. "It is just one of those weird things that happen you know. We really didn't know anybody when we decided to go to Avila. It just worked out that we all like being together. If you think about it we are like a family. We live together and when it's time to go eat we go eat together, we argue with each other, and we laugh together if that's not family I don't know what family is," says Ben Dierkes a second year player.

Already this season the Avila men's basketball team is showing that there might be something to team chemistry. They have gone out and won their first three games by over ten points. "I love the way things are starting to feel. Last year we were young and 1-2 at this point of the year. It feels so good to go out and win your first three games. We will see how good we really are when we go play Rogers State University this weekend. They are the number one team in the nation but I think we can take



them," Says Haase.

With a bond that is stronger than anything you will find in chemistry the Avila Basketball team looks like it will thrive this season. This team has sweat together, bled together, cried together but most importantly they have each other. This is not just a basketball team. These players are and will always remain to be a band of brothers.

Professor Deborah Johnson Leads Panel in discussion of Violence in Society



Kansas City police officer from the Homicide Unit takes time out of his day to spread the word about violence in society.

By Talon Staff

On Tuesday, November 24, 2009, the "Violence in Society" class and the Criminology and Justice Studies Program of the Department of Law and Justice Studies, hosted a "Violence Prevention Panel". The esteemed participants of this panel consisted of a variety of individuals representing diverse aspects of "violence in society," including representatives of various service organizations relating to a wide variety of aspects of violence (i.e., domestic violence, sexual violence, and anti-violence education and advocacy); a Senator who is also a juvenile defense attorney; an adjunct instructor from a local community college; retired military with a rich history of experience advocating for anti-violence and community enrichment; and a representative of the Homicide Unit of the Kansas City Police Department.

Although there were many reasons to host such a diverse and interdisciplinary panel, the primary purpose was to provide a "capstone" discussion for a course I designed for this semester titled, "Violence

in Society, says Deborah Johnson, Assistant Professor and Director of the Avila Criminology Program. Professor Johnson felt strongly that the students in this course and she have been involved in very enriching discussions based on the assigned readings, theoretical frameworks reviewed, and lectures based on an interdisciplinary conceptualization of the term violence, but that the Violence in Society Panel had provided a real world context to the other course activities.

Professor Johnson shared that the feedback from those that participated and attended the panel session has been extremely positive and that the collaboration of ideas regarding "violence in society" has been enriching as well as energizing. Because of this interest a Part II for the panel is being considered for Spring Semester 2010. Professor Johnson says, "I am thrilled at the response and the interest in collaboration from both the invited guests and the students. So, there are indeed plans in the making to host a similar event in the Spring".

SLORPTH – A Kansas City Youth Art Collective



Mr. Fish playing at Keatfest, where SLORPTH recorded them live.

By Liz Nelson

When first seeing the word SLORPTH while browsing through Facebook fan pages I thought to myself, "What is that?" So I decided to investigate and what I found is what looks to be a growing art community.

SLORPTH is a Kansas City Youth Art Collective, meaning that it brings together art and young artists from all over the Kansas City area. One of the most

interesting things about SLORPTH is the fact that it has no restrictions on what type of art it displays. SLORPTH is still quite small right now but it is growing and will continue to, as more people are able to find out what SLORPTH is all about.

Currently the main way to find out about Slorpth and any of the events they are attending is through the Facebook fan page labeled, SLORPTH.

SLORPTH was started in 2009 by an Avila University freshman, Thomas Hadden. Thomas is a Film and Digital Media student here. He is really excited and enthusiastic about moving forward with SLORPTH with the help of a few of his friends, Ian Teeple and Scott Olinger. While describing SLORPTH Thomas states, "the purpose behind it is to just gather all these great, young, creative, unconventional minds and try and fuse all the youth talent in the community together."

Some of the current pieces that Slorpth is showcasing are digital art, film and hand drawn pieces, but Thomas states that they are open to anything. The main message that SLORPTH is trying to get across to the public is that even though a young person's art may be unconventional or different that doesn't mean that it isn't art and it isn't real to them. As stated on SLORPTH's Facebook profile, their mission is "Join together young, unconventional, creative talents. Put a strong emphasis on creativity within the community. Inspire individual thinking." Many people feel that they have to conform to the norm so that they can fit in but SLORPTH is all about being different and expressing yourself in whatever way you want. Currently SLORPTH has collected quite a few music videos.

The band that is seen the most amongst the array of music videos is a local band named Mr. Fish. Thomas Hadden goes to events where Mr. Fish plays and records a lot of different footage. Then he goes back and edits the entire video to make an interesting mix of band footage and footage of the fans themselves. This is a perfect example of how SLORPTH is able to "fuse all the youth talent in the community together." Mr. Fish works with Thomas and is able to use his talents in cinematography and editing to give them an eye catching and usable music video for future use.

As said before SLORPTH is still growing and with constantly grow from here on out. Thomas and the rest of his team are currently developing a website dedicated to SLORPTH. This way they can easily get their art collections out to the rest of the Kansas City youth. One question you may be asking yourself is how can I, as an Avila

Student, become a part of SLORPTH. It's easy all you have to do is talk to Thomas about what kind of art you do, be it hand drawn, digital, performance, audio/visual, or anything else and then he is glad to add it to this wonderful collection of creativity. He is eager and excited to add new art and people to the group as a whole. This is something that he has been working hard on for quite sometime now.

Although SLORPTH has only been running since 2009 Thomas and his friends have been working on it longer. This is something that each one of them is personally interested in which, makes it such a great group of people. They each contribute to the collection themselves mainly with digital art and then Thomas' filming and editing skills. Thomas started SLORPTH because he "wanted for there to be a bigger emphasis on art within the youth community, so I figured an oddball, online art collective could help get that done."

He is very passionate about SLORPTH and all the projects that he works on. He says that one of his favorite parts about filmmaking is editing, he said, "I find there is something very therapeutic in piecing together a video."

Thomas will continue to work with SLORPTH as they begin to expand with shows, galleries and other events. For more information on SLORPTH check out SLORPTH's facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/SLORPTH/159800199329?ref=ts>.



Biker in Disguise: man finds his place in Bikers For Babies

By Lynette Galvan



Outside his house in Lee's Summit, next to the rose bush that was planted in memory of his passed granddaughter Hailey.

The alarm goes off at 4:30 in the morning, he rolls out of bed softly, but quickly so that his wife doesn't awaken from the alarm nor his movements. He says, "It's like playing a game and I'm the sneaky skilled investigator." You picture the man saying this to be a little boy, but in all actuality he is a 47 year old, 280 pound man. Don't be fooled though, that's 280 pounds of pure cuddliness that you feel when you squeeze your favorite teddy bear. When he's not hunched over giving his grandchildren endless piggy back rides he stands at an almost six feet tall; majority of that coming from his torso seeing as his legs are what seem to be as short as his two year old granddaughter's.

He grew up in a small industrial town in Kansas City, Kansas and explored every square inch of it, he knew it like the back of his hand. He told me stories of finding stray dogs and cats and how his mother would always tell him he eats a lot, but in all actuality he was sneaking handfuls of food for his new found animal friends. He says, "I was doing pretty good at keeping it a secret, until one day I made the mistake of bringing home a few cats and dogs... more like six cats and five dogs and I put them in our garage because it was winter out and well um, the next day I awoke to my mother screaming and yelling because she went out to get wood from the garage and wasn't expecting to see an animal shelter. Let's just say I wasn't allowed to have anymore pets while growing up."

He sat there for hours telling me stories of his adolescence all the way up to stories of his adult hood. He explained how each event in his life had an impact on him, who he was, and who he became, but there was one event in his life that impacted him more than any other. It was March 2002 and Hailey Marie Adkins had been born, his first granddaughter. He says, "It's an amazing feeling, a feeling of accomplishment toward your child for what they have accomplished, the gift of life." He was a proud grandparent who couldn't wait to spoil his granddaughter, but her

time here on earth had been cut short.

Hailey passed away two months after she was born of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), a disease that just happens, no explanation, no reason, just happens. He was devastated, the sun that brought light to his days had been taken away and he didn't know what to do. He explains, "It's like your lost in a pit of wonder, you ask so many questions and you have no answers."

Being lost was never his way of life, there had to be something out there to ease his pain and help him through this. That's when he discovered March of Dimes-Bikers for Babies. It's an organization of motorcyclists who ride cross country for the benefit of the March of Dimes organization. The bikers ride in hopes of raising money so that babies who are born premature, babies that have birth defects, and babies that pass have greater odds of living.

He wasn't a biker, nor did he even own a bike, but he wanted to help in some way, he wanted to be part of something that helped others and their little loved ones. So every year since 2002, this man my father, Alberto Galvan travels across the country to different March of Dimes-Bikers for Babies events. Now like I said before, he doesn't have a bike and couldn't tell you how to ride one, but he does know how to pull a trailer, as he does every day for his lawn-care business. With his trailer he drives cross country on the biker ride and if someone breaks down he loads their bike on his trailer and drives them the rest of the ride so that they may complete it.

My father makes a difference in some child's life every time he latches his trailer up and heads out with the other thousands of bikers on the open road. He is a man who has and will always help someone or something no matter how he has to go about it or what it might cost him in the end. He is a husband to his wife, a father to his children, a pa-pa to his granddaughters, and a hero to thousands of families who have benefited from March of Dimes.



Posing for a picture with a huge smile.

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Avila becomes one of the Nations' top Innovators

By Brian Garrison

What does Avila now have in common with Thomas Jefferson, Albert Einstein, and Bill Gates? While some may be less famous than others, they all share a passion for innovation and the courage to attempt something that others had never thought of.

Avila has become the nations' leading innovator in fundraising education with the announcement Friday, December 04, 2009, that Avila will now carry a master's degree in management with an emphasis in fundraising. Only two other universities (Columbia and New York University) even carry a degree that emphasizes fundraising. Avila's new program is very much unique and thrusts Avila University to the forefront in advancing philanthropy in America.

The Board of Trustees here at Avila accepted a \$1.2 million dollar gift from Bob Hartsook and the Hartsook Companies, Inc. This money will be used to fund the initial Hartsook Institute for Fundraising at Avila

University.

Avila President Ron Slepitz expressed his excitement, "This program will change the face of fundraising and fundraising in our community."

Bob Hartsook went on to explain his passion for fundraising and why he's obsessed with raising money. "We currently can't fulfill the needs of our country. Change is needed", said Hartsook.

Hartsook is a good friend of Slepitz and worked with Avila when they developed the new dorms. Hartsook is highly regarded not only in Kansas City, but nationally for his work in philanthropy. Since he formed the Hartsook Companies, Inc., they have provided council for over 1,100 nonprofit organizations throughout the nation.

Hartsook's goal is to change the face of fundraising. He noted that fundraising statistics show that in the past 40 years, fundraising in American hasn't grown at all. He wants to see a twenty percent increase in America's fundraising efforts.

His goal eventually includes a total of 40 colleges in the World carrying this program, but right now the focus is on Avila and Avila alone.

Hartsook said, "I want to do this right first."

President Slepitz made sure to mention Avila's master's in management with an emphasis in fundraising was erected in an astonishing time of less than a year. This program will be made up of a 37-credit hour curriculum. Six courses in management and six courses in fundraising, and will be completed with a capstone applied research project.

The program is set to embark on its innovating journey at the beginning of the upcoming spring semester. If your or any one you know would like to apply for this program, please contact Lacey Smith, Assistant Dean, School of Professional Studies.



The Beauty of Perspective: Thornhill shows beauty

By Brian Garrison

Often in our life we unfortunately only see things from one point of view. Whether it be only listening to one side of a story, judging other based on how we think they should be, or we often our so consumed with ourselves we forget were part of something much bigger.

But luckily, the Thornhill Gallery is currently showing art that proves that things can be beautiful in various ways, all depending on where you stand.

Anne Devaney, a former teacher at UMKC and the Art Institute, is showing off her stunning work of art in the Thornhill Gallery.

Her exhibition "Sense Memories", focuses on the beauty of nature. What makes her art so intriguing, is that from ten to fifteen feet away it looks like one complete picture. But one you get within ten feet you begin to see that this complete

picture is more or less a puzzle.

There are hundreds of small pieces of paper that are cut and positioned to create this much larger and amazing picture. Each small piece is just as important as the next, and you can tell Devaney took her time with each and every brush stroke.

Devaney's art was inspired by her loving of drawing, combined with her fascination of nature. She went to each of the sights in her paintings, then drew them, and then from her drawings she begins her process of oil painting. Some of her painting were even of old drawings she had that she felt could be shown better using her current technique, or from her dreams, hence the title.

"Sense Memories", is an amazing exhibition, that reminds that not only are we just a small part of something greater, but sometimes it's important to look at things from different perspectives.

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